Law of the DPRK on Seafarers

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Chapter 1 Fundamentals

Article 1 Objective
The Law is enacted for the purpose of providing efficient seafaring resources and ensuring safe operation and maintenance of ships by establishing a rigid system and order in training, registration and qualification of seafarers.

Article 2 Categorization of seafarers
Seafarers are responsible for ship operation and are in direct charge of ship navigation. They are categorized into officers and ratings.

Article 3 Principles of seafarers' training
Seafarers' training is an important undertaking to bring up able seafarers in a far reaching way.
The State shall ensure the establishment of a well-regulated system for seafarers' education and training and consistent improvement of its quality.

Article 4 Principles of seafarers' registration
The responsibility for proper registration of seafarers rests with the maritime administration organs.
The State shall ensure strictness in seafarers' registration

Article 5 Principles of seafarers' competency assessment
The State shall have the proper, scientific and impartial system of seafarers' competency assessment in place.

Article 6 Principles of enhancing sense of responsibilities and obligations
The State shall ensure that seafarers fully discharge their responsibilities and obligations in navigation and operation of ships as masters thereof.

Article 7 Principles of exchange and cooperation
The State should develop exchanges and cooperation with other States and international organizations with regard to seafarers training, registration and competency assessment.

Article 8 Application
This Law shall apply to ship operating institutions, enterprises and organizations, seafarers' training, registration and competency assessment organs, and seafarers themselves.

It shall also apply to foreign flagged ships which entered the DPRK waters and to the seafarers thereon.

Chapter 2 Seafarers' training

Article 9 Seafarers educational and training institution

Seafarers' training shall be undertaken by seafarers educational and training institutions including relevant specialized educational institutions or seafarers training institutions or centers. No one can become a seafarer without having received necessary education or training provided by such institutions/centers.

Article 10 Quality management system of seafarers' training

Seafarers educational and training institutions shall establish a proper quality management system in seafarers' training and continuously improve the standards of education and training in order to train, in planned and far-reaching way, seafarers who can fully discharge their duties of ship navigation and operation.

The quality management system of seafarers' training shall be certified by the national maritime authority.

Article 11 Education of seafarers educational institutions

Seafarers educational and training institutions shall draw up the seafarers' education and training curricula for professional subjects including navigation, marine engineering, electrical equipment and radio communication in conformity with the national maritime legislation and applicable international maritime conventions and introduce the advanced teaching methods so as to bring up a larger number of able specialists.

Article 12 Operation of seafarers training institutions/centers

Relevant ship operating institutions, enterprises and organizations may run seafarers training institutions/centers for the purpose of seafarers' training. In this case, it shall be subject to the approval by the relevant organ.

Such institutions, enterprises and organizations shall be provided with sufficient equipment and facilities for seafarers' training including simulators and define proper methods and contents of the training to teach the trainees knowledge and skills necessary for ship navigation and management.

The simulator for seafarers training shall be used under the approval of the national maritime authority.

Article 13 Refresher and updating training for seafarers

Institutions, enterprises and organizations shall ensure that the seafarers employed by them shall be given the refresher and updating training in specialized educational institutions or training institutions/centers on a regular basis

The methods and procedures for such training are specified in the associated regulation of this Law.

Article 14 Classification and standards of seafarers' training

Seafarers' training includes safety familiarization and basic training and special training.

The standards for basic safety training and specialized training for seafarers are subject to the determination by the national maritime authority.

Article 15 Practices

Seafarers educational and training institutions shall be provided with the facilities and equipment for the practices and give practical training or education on a regular basis.

Relevant institutions, enterprises and organizations shall provide adequate conditions for seafarers' practical training.

Article 16 Seafarers' training onboard ships

Ship operating institutions, enterprises and organizations shall arrange the seafarers' training onboard ships on a regular basis, which shall be recorded in the record books.

Article 17 Qualification of seafarers training instructors and shipboard training officers

The officers in charge of seafarers training in ship operating institutions, enterprises and organizations, the instructors of seafarers training institutions/centers and shipboard training officers shall be appropriately qualified.

Any person without such appropriate qualifications shall not train seafarers.

Article 18 Application for seafarers training assessment

Seafarers who have undergone training shall be subject to regular training assessment by the maritime administration organs. In this case, ship operating institutions, enterprises and organizations shall prepare and submit the applications for seafarers training assessment to the maritime administration organ.

Article 19 Seafarers training assessment and certification

Maritime administration organs shall conduct seafarers training assessment on applications therefor and issue training certificates to the seafarers who have passed the assessment.

The seafarers who have failed to undergo training assessment due to the engagement on international voyages despite their certificates having been expired may be issued certificates with limited validity.

The validity period shall be set by the national maritime authority on a case-by-case basis.

Chapter 3 Seafarers registration

Article 20 Seafarers registration organ

Seafarers registration shall be conducted by the maritime administration organs.
The maritime administration organs shall establish proper standards and procedures for registering seafarers and ensure strictness in registration.

Article 21 Application for seafarers registration

Application for seafarers registration shall be made by the ship operating institutions, enterprises and organizations.
The ship operating institutions, enterprises and organizations that intend to have their seafarers registered shall file the applications for seafarers registration with the maritime administration organs.
The applications for seafarers registration shall include necessary details of seafarers concerned including their identities, careers, kinds of education or training they have received and their competences certified, etc.

Article 22 Period of deliberation on seafarers registration

The maritime administration organs shall deliberate the applications for seafarers registration within seven days after receipt of them to approve or reject them.
The result of deliberation shall be notified in time to the ship operating institutions, enterprises and organizations who have submitted the applications.

Article 23 Requests for information for deliberation on seafarers registration

The maritime administration organs may request the necessary information for seafarers registration from the ship operating institutions, enterprises and organizations that have applied for seafarers' registration.
The ship operating institutions, enterprises and organizations shall timely provide such information to the maritime administration organs.

Article 24 Filing of complaints against the deliberation on the seafarers registration and disposal thereof

The ship operating institutions, enterprises and organizations that have complaints about the results of the deliberation of seafarers registration may file complaints with the maritime administration organs within 7 days after receipt of the notification of such results.
The maritime administration organs shall deliberate on the complaints and notify the relevant institutions, enterprises and organizations of the result in time.

Article 25 Seafarers' registration

The maritime administration organs shall enroll, in the Seafarers Register, the seafarers whose registration has been approved.
The registration shall be subject to revalidation every five years.

Article 26 Issue of the seafarer passport

The maritime administration organs shall issue the seafarer passports to the seafarers who have been registered. In this case, the seafarers shall be categorized into those engaged on international voyages and those engaged on domestic voyages and accordingly issued with appropriate certificates.

The seafarer passports issued to the seafarers engaged on international voyages serve as passports of the DPR Korea.

The validity of the seafarer passport shall not exceed five years.

Article 27 Issue of seafarer identity cards to foreign seafarers

The foreign seafarers who intend to serve on board the DPRK-flagged ships shall be issued with seafarer identity cards by the maritime administration organs.

In this case, seafarer passports, certificates of competency and training certificates issued by the relevant State shall be presented.

Article 28 Updated registration or deregistration of a seafarer

A seafarer shall be subject to updated registration or deregistration in the following cases:

1. Name or affiliation of the institution, enterprise or organization which he/she works for has changed;
2. The seafarer's post has been changed; or
3. The seafarer has been dismissed or died.

Article 29 Reissuance of seafarer passports

The seafarer passport shall be reissued or revalidated in the following cases:

1. It has been lost;
2. It has been stained or damaged;
3. It has been expired; or
4. Its change record pages have run out.

Article 30 Return of the seafarer passport

If the seafarer has died or been dismissed, the relevant institutions, enterprises and organizations shall return his/her passport to the maritime administration organ within 30 days.

Where a seafarer passport is to be reissued, the outdated one shall be returned.

Chapter 4 Assessment of seafarers' competency

Article 31 Organization for seafarers competency assessment, classification of competency

Seafarers competency assessment shall be conducted by the maritime administration organs.

The maritime administration organs shall properly set the standards of seafarers competency and criteria for application for competency assessment and strictly conduct the assessment of seafarers competency.

The standards for seafarers' competency shall be set separately according as the seafarers are engaged on domestic voyage or international voyage.

Article 32 Application for seafarers' competency

The seafarers who intend to obtain the qualifications shall apply for an examination on the relevant competency.

Seafarers competency is classified as appropriate under professional functions including deck department, engine department, radio communication department and electrical department.

Such classification is undertaken by the Cabinet.

Article 33 Application for pilots' competency

The person who intends to be qualified as a pilot shall apply for the pilot's competency examination.

Ranking of pilots' competency is undertaken by the Cabinet.

Article 34 Arrangement of seafarers' competency assessment

The maritime administration organs shall carefully plan the seafarers competency assessment, inform the ship operating institutions, enterprises and organizations of the schedule and orientation for such assessment, appoint qualified seafarers competency assessors and prepare examination questions for seafarers competency assessment.

Article 35 Application for seafarers competency assessment

Application for seafarers competency assessment shall be filed by the relevant ship operating institutions, enterprises and organizations.

Ship operating institutions, enterprises and organizations that intend to have the competency of their seafarers assessed shall submit an application in writing to the maritime administration organs 15 days before the assessment.

Article 36 Classification of seafarers competency assessment

Assessment of seafarers competency includes assessments for current rank and for higher rank.

Article 37 Seafarers competency assessment

The maritime administration organs shall conduct the assessment of seafarers competency and make decision on approving or rejecting the relevant competency. The results of the assessment of the seafarers' competency shall be

notified to the relevant ship operating institutions, enterprises and organizations within 15 days.

Article 38 Organization of Seafarers Competence Assessment Panel

The maritime administration organs may organize the non-standing S eafarers Competency Assessment Panel for the assessment for the purpose of the seafarers' competency.

The P anel shall consist of relevant specialists.

Article 39 Issuance of Certificates of Competency

The maritime administration organs shall issue the Certificates of Competency to the seafarers who have passed the assessment of seafarers competency. Such Certificates shall be valid for 5 years.

Article 40 Reissuance of Certificates of Competency

Certificates of Competency shall be reissued if they are lost or stained. In this case, ship operating institutions, enterprises and organizations shall submit an application for reissuance of Certificates of Competency to the maritime administration organs.

Article 41 Issuance of certificates or endorsements to foreign seafarers

The maritime administration organs may issue to foreign seafarers the DPRK certificates of competency and certificates of proficiency or the endorsements attesting the recognition of the certificates of competency issued by their countries in compliance with the STCW Convention.

Article 42 Issuance of dispensations

Where the post of an officer has become vacant during international voyage for some reasons such as death or sudden illness, the post may be temporally filled by another officer in a lower rank.

Where an officer in a lower rank is to be posted temporarily, the maritime administration organ may issue to the officer the relevant dispensation which is valid for less than 6 months.

The validity of dispensations for masters, chief engineers and radio operators shall be less than 3 months.

Article 43 Officers' competency

Officers shall obtain relevant Certificates of Competency in deck, engine, radio communication and electro-technical departments depending upon the tonnage and propulsion power of their ships.

Chapter 5 Seafarers' duty

Article 44 General duty

Seafarers shall be familiar with their duties and fulfill them with a high sense of responsibility.

Article 45 Master

The master is the person having command of a ship.

The master shall exercise command and control over seafarers, passengers and ship management and navigation and undertake responsibility for the protection of persons and assets onboard, safe navigation of the ship and protection of marine environment.

Article 46 Chief mate

The chief mate is the officer next in rank to the master as well as the head of the deck department.

The chief mate shall make arrangements for navigational and anchoring watches, ship management and cargo transportation.

Chief mate shall substitute for the master in the event of the latter's incapacity due to the unavoidable reasons.

Article 47 Deck officer

Deck officer is the officer responsible for safe navigation of the ship, protection of marine environment and management of the equipment under his/her charge. In case of vacancy of the chief mate, the deck officer shall substitute for him.

Article 48 Chief engineer officer

The chief engineer officer is the head of the engine department.

The chief engineer officer shall have charge and command of maintenance and operation of engine and deck machinery.

Article 49 Second engineer officer

The second engineer officer is the officer next in rank to the chief engineer officer, as well as the secondary head of the engine department.

The second engineer officer shall arrange engine maintenance as well as navigational and anchoring watches in the engine department with the personnel under his command and undertake responsibility for operation, management and maintenance of the equipment under his charge.

Article 50 Engineer officer

The engineer officer is the officer responsible for operation, management and maintenance of the equipment assigned to him/her under the chief engineer officer's supervision, while ensuring normal operation of the engine.

Article 51 Electro-technical officer
The electro-technical officer is the officer responsible for operation and management of the electrical equipment onboard the ship.
The electro-technical officer is subject to the orders of the chief engineer officer.

Article 52 Radio operator
The radio operator is the officer responsible for operational and distress communication onboard the ship.
The radio operator is subject to the orders of the master.

Article 53 Able seafarer deck
The able seafarer deck is the head of deck ratings.
The able seafarer deck shall be responsible for management of the hull, deck structures, tool sets and fixtures, while organizing the work of deck ratings.

Article 54 Deck rating
The deck rating shall manage the cargoes and deck equipment under the order of the able seafarer deck and perform his duty on the deck.

Article 55 Able Seafarer engine
The able seafarer engine is the head of oilers.
The able seafarer engine shall organize the work for oilers under the order of the chief engineer officer and be responsible for maintenance of engine equipment and management of materials.

Article 56 Oiler
The oiler shall operate and maintain the engine equipment under the order of the able seafarer engine.

Article 57 Others
The ship's doctor shall be responsible for sanitation and heath of seafarers onboard the ship.
The catering crew shall be responsible for supply and welfare services.

Article 58 Watchkeeping
Seafarers shall fulfill the watchkeeping duty with a high sense of responsibility according to the specified standards of watchkeeping.
Such standards shall be specified by the maritime administration organs.

Chapter 6 Guidance and control of seafaring

Article 59 Guidance of seafaring
Guidance of seafaring shall be carried out by the relevant central organ under the

over-all guidance of the Cabinet.
Such organ shall improve and strengthen guidance of seafaring as required by the developing reality.

Article 60 Requirements to be met by ship operating institutions, enterprises and organizations

Ship operating institutions, enterprises and organizations shall:

1. embark onboard ships the seafarers who have completed education or training at seafarers educational and training institutions and hold relevant certificates, and assign them appropriate duties according to their competency and capacity;
2. embark onboard ships seafarers in accordance with the minimum safe manning standards and medical standards;
3. take strict measures for labor safety and labor protection, and provide enough resting and good living conditions for seafarers;
4. take measures to systematically improve the technical skills of seafarers; and
5. keep the necessary seafaring information such as seagoing service, education or training, physical examination and the certificates of competency.

Article 61 Ship design and construction suitable for living conditions of seafarers

The relevant institutions, enterprises and organizations that intend to design, build and modify ships shall ensure that bedrooms, messes and other living facilities are convenient to seafarers

Article 62 Supervision and control of seafaring

Supervision and control of seafaring shall be exercised by the national maritime authority and relevant supervisory and control organs.
The national maritime authority and relevant supervisory and control organs shall regularly supervise and control the implementation of the State's policy related to seafaring.

Article 63 Inspection of seafarers onboard foreign flagged ships

The maritime administration organs may inspect the foreign seafarers onboard foreign flagged ships entering the DPRK waters to determine whether they hold certificates under the STCW Convention, and whether their capabilities are in compliance with the Convention.
Where some non-conformities have been found during inspections, the maritime administration organs may disallow their ships to carry on navigation until such non-conformities are corrected.

Article 64 Administrative responsibility

Officials responsible for the institutions, enterprises and organizations, and individual citizens shall be liable to administrative penalty, depending upon the seriousness, in following cases:

1. when seafarers' registration has been applied in a false way, thus causing a disturbance in seafarers' registration;
2. when seafarers' registration, seafarers' training assessment and seafarers' competency assessment have been carried out irresponsibly, or seafarer passports, certificates of competency and certificates of proficiency have been issued illegally;
3. when a person without seafarer passport has been embarked;
4. when any accident happened due to assignment of duties in disregard of the seafarers' competencies;
5. when any accident happened due to irresponsible performance of watchkeeping duties;
6. when ships' safe navigation has been disturbed owing to the failure to meet the minimum safe manning standards;
7. when seafarer passports, certificates of competency and certificates of proficiency are fraudulent, or seafarers with invalid certificates are engaged on voyage; and
8. when inconvenient living conditions have been provided for seafarers due to irresponsible ship design, construction and conversion.

Article 65 Criminal responsibility

The officials of the institutions, enterprises and organizations, as well as individuals who caused serious consequences from any act stipulated in Article 64 of this Law shall, depending on the gravity of the offence, be subjected to the administrative or criminal sanctions.